

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SSM-03 IO-13 /073 W
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R 171332Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2847
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 4786

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS/ PGOV, US,JO, IS
SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN COMMENTS ON GOI ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXTENSION
OF SERVICES TO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

REF AMMAN 4742

1. KING HUSSEIN, IN BBC INTERVIEW CARRIED BY
JORDANIAN DAILY AR-RAI AUGUST 17, REITERATES
BELIEF THAT ISRAEL HAS NO INTENTION OF WITHDRAWING
FROM OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS. IF ISRAEL WERE TRULY
SEEKING PEACE, HE ASKS, WHY WOULD SHE NOW BE
TRYING TO CHANGE STATUS QUO IN PALESTINIAN LAND?
HUSSEIN NOTES THAT HE HAS WARNED THAT ISRAELIS
WOULD MAKE SUCH A MOVE AND HE HAS BEEN EXPECTING
THIS. ISRAELI ELECTORATE, KING HUSSEIN SAYS, HAS
CHOSEN LAND OVER PEACE, LAND WHICH NEW ISRAELI RULERS
BELIEVE TO BE LIBERATED RATHER THAN OCCUPIED. ASKED
HIS OPINION OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S POSITION, HUSSEIN
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SAID CARTER IS ATTEMPTING THE IMPOSSIBLE BUT IS
DETERMINED TO EXERT ALL EFFORTS TOWARD FINDING A
SOLUTION; HE WILL NOT GIVE UP, HUSSEIN
BELIEVE, SINCE PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE AREA ARE
IN U.S. INTEREST. U.S., HE SAID, MUST INFLUENCE
ISRAEL, BUT MUST NOT UNDERESTIMATE ABILITY OF
ISRAEL TO MAKE "DANGEROUS MOVES" THAT MIGHT LEAD

TO "UNEXPECTED RESULTS" IN THE AREA.

2. COMMENT: KING HUSSEIN'S REMARKS ECHO THOSE
HEARD FROM OTHER JORDANIANS (REFTEL), PARTICULARLY
IN MATTER-OF-FACT STATEMENT OF BELIEF THAT GOI HAS
NEVER INTENDED TO GIVE UP OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.
THEME IS REPEATED IN AR-RAI'S EDITORIAL IN WHICH
WRITER REMINDS WORLD THAT JORDAN HAS REPEATEDLY
SOUNDED WARNING THAT ISRAEL WOULD RESORT TO "NEW
PLOT TO CHANGE STATUS QUO" IN OCCUPIED LANDS.
LATEST MOVE, WHICH EDITOR SEES AS PUTTING ISRAEL
ON COLLISION COURSE WITH ARAB STATES, IS SEEN AS
ISRAEL'S ANSWER TO U.S. ATTEMPTS TO REACH
SETTLEMENT. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OF WHAT HE
BELIEVES IS USUAL ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE, HUSSEIN
NOT CONFIDENT THAT EVEN PRESIDENT CARTER CAN
HOPE TO CONTROL ISRAELI ACTIONS IN FACE OF ITS
UNWILLINGNESS TO WORK FOR PEACE. NEVERTHELESS,
AD-DUSTUR ALSO REPORTS THAT PM BEGIN YESTERDAY
RECEIVED LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER, WHICH,
REPORTER NOTED, IN OPTIMISTIC TONE, WAS BELIEVED
TO CONTAIN U.S. REACTION TO ISRAEL'S "ANNEXATION"
ANNOUNCEMENT.
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